



**School Annual Education Report (AER) Cover Letter
Tobey Elementary**

January 27, 2025

Dear Parents and Community Members:

We are pleased to present you with the Annual Education Report (AER), which provides key information on the 2023-24 educational progress for Tobey Elementary. The AER addresses the complex reporting information required by federal and state laws. The school's report contains information about student assessment, accountability, and teacher quality. If you have any questions about the AER, please contact Mike Barwegen, Principal, at 269-321-1660 for assistance.

[The AER](#) is available for you to review electronically by visiting the following website [Vicksburg Community Schools](#), or you may review a copy in the main office at your child's school.

For the 2024-25 school year, schools were identified based on previous years' performance using definitions and labels as required in the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). A Targeted Support and Improvement (TSI) school is one that had at least one underperforming student subgroup in 2023-24. An Additional Targeted Support (ATS) school is one that had a student subgroup performing at the same level as the lowest 5% of all schools in the state in 2022-23. A Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI) school is one whose performance was in the lowest 5% of all schools in the state, had a graduation rate at or below 67%, or failed to exit ATS status in 2022-23. Some schools are not identified with any of these labels. In this case, no label is given, as is the case with Tobey Elementary.

Tobey continues to live up to the high expectations. We challenge ourselves in each academic area to improve every year. We have been especially proud of our student cohorts that continue to progress from year to year. Through our survey data we found that parents want to be closely involved in our improvement efforts. We have established a Parent Character Connection communicating a series of activities that parents and students work on together. The "Character Connection" along with the "Tobey Way" and "Tobey Community" programs have been recognized on a National Level as we continue to work towards being recognized as a School of Character. In fact, in the 2022-2023 school year Tobey was named an Honorable Mention National School of Character. The Character Connection opens many opportunities for parents to be involved in our improvement processes and the daily activities of their children. Relationships keep being built that reinforce our improvement efforts. Parent involvement has regained the pre-pandemic level. Our goal is to provide the best experience for students by seeking educational excellence. We routinely are recognized by the U.S. News and World Report as one of the "Best" elementary schools in Michigan.

State law requires that we also report additional information.

Process for assigning pupils to the school:

Elementary students are assigned to one of three school buildings based on geographical boundaries, to fully utilize the district's teaching and facility resources. It is sometimes necessary to transfer some students from one attendance area to another. We attempt to assign Schools of Choice students to the closest building geographically, but it is first dependent upon availability.

Status of the School Improvement Plan:

Tobey Elementary continues to utilize the state of Michigan's documentation format called the MI School Improvement Framework. There is a significant amount of data reviewed as we develop goals, strategies, and activities to support our efforts within the scope of the school improvement plan. We continue to work towards 100% of our students attain proficiency in the curricular areas of Reading, Math, Science, and Social Studies. We have also added a social/emotional goal that addresses functioning at all three levels within the school (curriculum, procedures, and home connection). By improving our schools social/emotional health achievement will also increase.

Specialized Schools:

- Bulldog Beginnings - Bulldog Beginnings preschool focuses on school readiness skills in a fun, play-based format. Bulldog Beginnings is entirely FREE to families who meet the qualifications. This includes transportation, meals, snacks, parent education programs, and field trips.

- Early Childhood Special Education – a special education classroom environment designed to provide school-aged students with disabilities services to prepare them for Kindergarten.
- Hearing, vision, and Occupational Therapy Consultation Services – These specialists support our students within the classroom setting.
- Social Work, Speech, and Occupational Therapy – These services are offered to all students.

Core Curriculum:

The area that has the most impact on student achievement is the Common Core State Standards, aligned with our curriculum and programming. Common Core State Standards are used in K-12 for English Language Arts and Math. The Cereal City Science Kits, our instructional resource for science in grades K-5, are aligned to the Michigan Science Standards, and the MC3 is used for Social Studies for grades K-5.

The Core Curriculum at Tobey Elementary can be viewed by contacting Mike Barwegen, Principal, at 269-321-1600.

Aggregate Student Achievement Results for Local Competency Tests or Nationally Normed Achievement Tests:

2022-23 Tobey Elementary					2023-2024 Tobey Elementary				
	At or Above	On Watch	Intervention	Urgent Intervention		At or Above	On Watch	Intervention	Urgent Intervention
STAR Early Literacy – Spring 2023					STAR Early Literacy – Spring 2024				
K	83%	13%	4%	0%	K	68.8%	12.5%	12.5%	6.3%
STAR Reading – Spring 2023					STAR Reading – Spring 2024				
1st	74%	21%	4%	1%	1st	90.2%	7.8%	2%	0%
2nd	79%	21%	4%	1%	2nd	84.9%	6.1%	6.1%	3%
3rd	67%	21%	8%	5%	3rd	67.1%	24.3%	7.1%	1.4%
4th	74%	15%	11%	0%	4th	68.1%	21.7%	4.3%	5.8%
5th	62%	25%	10%	4%	5th	52.3%	29.2%	15.4%	3.1%
STAR Math – Spring 2023					STAR Math – Spring 2024				
1st	91%	9%	0%	0%	1st	86.8%	13.2%	0%	0%
2nd	95%	4%	1%	0%	2nd	84.1%	11.6%	1.4%	2.9%
3rd	71%	26%	3%	0%	3rd	74.6%	21.1%	2.8%	1.4%

4th	80%	16%	3%	0%		4th	75.7%	17.1%	7.1%	0%
5th	77%	19%	4%	0%		5th	70.8%	16.9%	6.2%	6.2%

Parent-Teacher Conferences:

Parent-Teacher Conferences are held twice a year on multiple evenings. Parents have assigned times that are coordinated by the teacher and the parent to make it conducive for attendance. At most grade levels the attendance at the parent teacher conferences was 100%. Adjustments were made for those families uncomfortable meeting in-person. Virtual conferences and phone conferences were held.

Tobey Elementary continues to be a wonderful, family oriented elementary school. We appreciate the support that our Tobey Community gives to the school. We will continue to offer a positive, safe learning environment

Sincerely,

Michael Barwegen

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 Tobey Elementary Principal
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